

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-05 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 IO-11

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P 171216Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9028

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG' ETEL, IMCO

SUBJECT: INMARSAT CONFERENCE

DEPT PASS JOHN EGER, OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
POLICY, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, FROM WILLIAM
F. FISHMAN, US DEL, IMCO CONFERENCE, LONDON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT LETTER, DATED FEB 12, 1976, ADDRESSED
WILLIAM K. MILLER, US REP TO IMCO CONFERENCE, AND
MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, AMEMBASSY
LONDON, SIGNED BY ROBERT D. BOURNE, COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE CORP, AND THOMAS M. ZIMMER, COMSAT GENERAL
CORP.

QUOTE

DEAR MR. MILLER:

IN RESPOLSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE
RESOLUTION WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO SUBMIT
TO THE CONFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE PROVISION
OF AERONAUTICAL SATELLITE SERVICES BY INMARSAT, WE
SHOULD LIKE TM CONVEY TO YOU THE SERIOUS CONCERNS WHICH
THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION HAVE WITH THE
RESOLUTION.

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WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS LETTER. IT IS NOT OUR POSITION THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION DOES NOT HAVE MERIT OR THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION AT SOME POINT, BUT RATHER THAT INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT AT THIS CONFERENCE IS INAPPROPRIATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ABOVE, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH YOU FURTHER.

SINCERELY YOURS, UNQUOTE.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ATTACHMENT FOREGOING LETTER ENTITLED "REASONS FOR NOT INTRODUCING RESOLUTION CONCERNING STUDY OF AERONAUTICAL USES OF AN INMARSAT SPACE SEGMENT:"

QUOTE

1. THE RESOLUTION OF THE IMCO ASSEMBLY CONVENING THE INMARSAT CONFERENCE IS LIMITED TO MATTERS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHING OF AN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM. THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION IS OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE.
2. THE US HAS NOT RAISED ISSUE OF AERONAUTICAL USE FOR OVER ONE YEAR EITHER IN THE FIRST PLENIPOTENTIARY OR IN THREE ISWGS.
3. THE TIMING OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL NEW APPROACH WILL RAISE SERIOUS SUSPICIONS AS TO US INTENTIONS (DEFEAT INMARSAT OR DELAY IT) AND WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH THE INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES SOUGHT IN THIS CONFERENCE.
4. WE SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INSTITUTIONAL OPTION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICES THROUGH INMARSAT BY INTRODUCING A UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCEPT WHICH COULD DELAY AN OPERATIONAL SYSTEM.

5. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT IS SUCH THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES, WILL BE REQUIRED AND THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH DURING THE CONFERENCE.
6. SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE SOUGHT

BY THE AERONAUTICAL RESOLUTION IS LESS LIKELY BY INTRO-
DUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THIS CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE
SUSPICION ENGENDERED CONCERNING US MOTIVATIONS WILL VERY

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LIKELY LEAD TO ITS DEFEAT.

7. FAILURE TO INTRODUCE THE RESOLUTION IN THIS CON-
FERENCE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY PRECLUDE UNDERTAKING THE
EFFORT PROPOSED BY THE RESOLUTION AT A LATER DATE EITHER
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF INMARSAT (BEFORE OR AFTER ITS
COMING INTO EXISTENCE) OR IN A SEPARATE INTERNATIONAL
CONTEXT.

8. THE US SHOULD FIRST STUDY WHAT IT WANTS TO DO
BEFORE GENERATING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY WHICH MAY GIVE
RESULTS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE US.

9. THE POTENTIAL INVESTORS IN INMARSAT HAVE NOT BEEN
GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY WHETHER A MANDATE TO
INMARSAT TO PROVIDE AERONAUTICAL SATELLITE SERVICES IS
A COMMERCIALY VIABLE PROPOSAL.

10. IN ITS EARLY YEARS INMARSAT WILL REQUIRE ALL ITS

ENERGIES AND RESOURCES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE
AND ECONOMICAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM. A REQUIREMENT
TO DEVOTE SUBSTANTIAL ENERGIES TO AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
SERVICE WILL IMPINGE DIRECTLY ON THE ABILITY OF INMARSAT
TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PRIMARY GOAL.

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11. IMPRACTICAL TO EXPECT AN "INTERIM" BODY OF INMARSAT
OF AERONAUTICAL USES WHICH ARE NOT PART OF INMARSAT'S
PRIME OBJECTIVE, WITH A VIEW TOWARD AMENDMENT
TO INMARSAT AGREEMENTS BEFORE THE ORGANIZATION EVEN
COMMENCES OPERATION.

12. SUCH A RESOLUTION COULD RAISE QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT
TO THE AEROSAT PROGRAM SINCE THE US WOULD BE CALLING
FOR STUDIES DURING THE SAME PERIOD THAT PROCUREMENT OF
AEROSAT SATELLITE FACILITIES WILL BE UNDER CONSIDERATION.
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